Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing Report of ESM

May 2023

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Table of Contents

1.	Overview of the project	5
2.	Vulnerabilities explained in detail	7
	2.1 Application Accessible over HTTP	7
	2.2 No Account Lockout Policy	9
	2.3 Cleartext Transmission of Sensitive Information	10
	2.4 Blind Cross-site Scripting (XSS)	12
	2.5 Clickjacking	13
	2.6 HTML Injection	16
	2.7 Lack of rate limit leads to Brute-force Attack	18
	2.8 No Content Security Policy	19
	2.9 Application Allows Concurrent Sessions	20
	2.10 No Multifactor Authentication (MFA)	21
	2.11 Long Session Timeout	23
2	Abhreviation	25

1. Overview of the project

L&T Technology Services (LTTS) security team has conducted Security Assessment for the SmartCare Remote Management web application. The purpose of the assessment is to evaluate the security posture of the web application against common vulnerabilities.

Objective of the security assessment:

As a part of this engagement, a holistic approach was taken to conduct the Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing on the ESM. During the engagement High, Medium, and Low severity issues were identified with respect to the ESM web application.

Approach

The following approach was taken to make sure the target was assessed against known vulnerabilities from all possible security perspectives:

 Manual Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing using OWASP TOP 10 for web applications.

Some of the tools which were used are listed below:

Target Application	ESM
Browser	Chrome, Firefox
Tools	Burp Suite, Postman, Wireshark

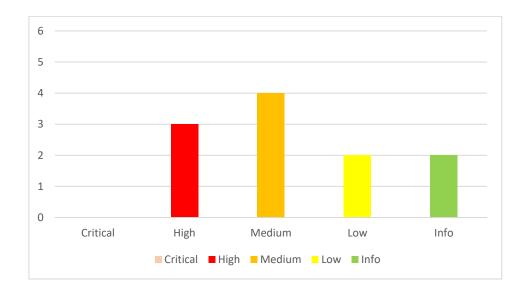
Key Security Policies

OWASP top 10 listed vulnerabilities were used as a reference framework. The following key security aspects were checked:

- 1. Broken Access Control
- 2. Cryptographic Failures
- 3. Injection
- 4. Insecure Design
- 5. Security Misconfiguration
- 6. Vulnerable and Outdated Components
- 7. Identification and Authentication Failures
- 8. Software and Data Integrity Failures
- 9. Security Logging and Monitoring Failures
- 10. Server-Side Request Forgery

Summary of Findings

The graph below shows a summary of the number of vulnerabilities found for each impact level for the Application Security Assessment. Vulnerabilities found are addressed according to priority, findings, analysis, and recommendations from the assessment.



Sr.no	Title	Risk Rating
1	Application Accessible over HTTP	High
2	No Account Lockout Policy	High
3	Cleartext Transmission of Sensitive Information	High
4	Blind Cross-site Scripting (XSS)	Medium
5	Clickjacking	Medium
6	HTML Injection	Medium
7	Lack of rate limit leads to Brute-force Attack	Medium
8	No Content Security Policy	Low
9	Application Allows Concurrent Sessions	Low
10	No Multifactor Authentication (MFA)	Info
11	Long Session Timeout	Info

Overall Risk Severity = Likelihood x Impact				
	HIGH	Medium	High	Critical
Immost	MEDIUM	Low	Medium	High
Impact	LOW	Note	Low	Medium
		LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
	Likelihood			

2. Vulnerabilities explained in detail

2.1 Application Accessible over HTTP					
Impact	High	D:-I-	High		
Ease of Exploit	Easy	Risk Rating			
Likelihood	Medium	Rating			
Category	Category CWE-319: Cleartext Transmission of Sensitive Information				
URL/Impacted system	I http://13./1.66.245/#/login				
_ · ··					

Description

During vulnerability assessment, ESM web application allows web browsers to access to the application over HTTP and doesn't redirect them to HTTPS. The application fails to prevent users from connecting to it over unencrypted connections.

Impact

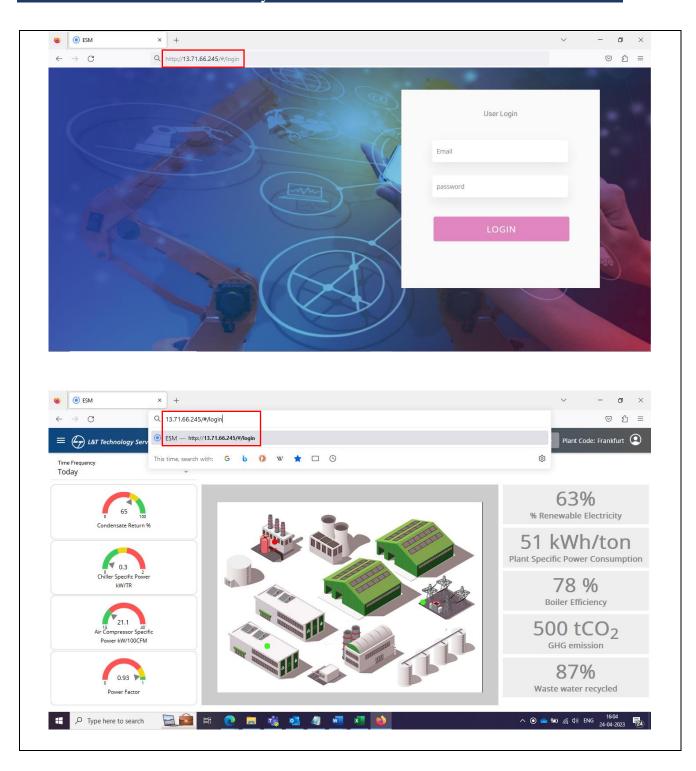
- This is performed by rewriting HTTPS links as HTTP, so that if a targeted user follows a link to the site from an HTTP page, their browser never attempts to use an encrypted connection.
- An attacker able to modify a legitimate user's network traffic could bypass the application's use of SSL/TLS encryption and use the application as a platform for attacks against its users.

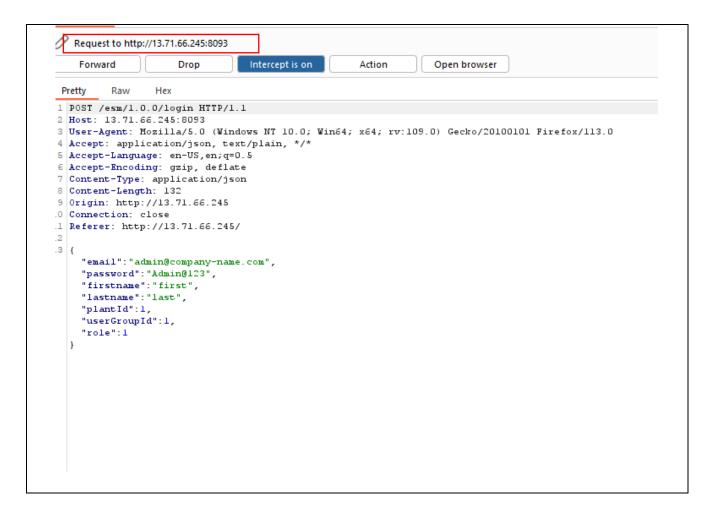
Recommendation

- The application should instruct web browsers to only access the application using HTTPS.
- Enable HTTP Strict Transport Security (HSTS) by adding a response header with the name 'Strict-Transport-Security' and the value 'max-age=expireTime', where expireTime is the time in seconds that browsers should remember that the site should only be accessed.

How to recreate the Security defect

- Browse to http://13.71.66.245/#/login
- Application does not redirect to HTTPS and the traffic is sent over HTTP.





2.2 No Account Lockout Policy					
Impact	High	p: I	High		
Ease of Exploit	Moderate	Risk Rating			
Likelihood	Medium	Katilig			
Category	Broken Authentication				
URL/Impacted system	http://13.71.66.245/#/login				

Description

During Assessment, we observed ESM web application doesn't follow the account lockout policy. Current mechanism allows for N number of attempts to occur on any username. This gives attackers the bandwidth needed to carry out brute force attacks. If the attackers know the username, then the brute force on password field can happen with increased probability. If the attackers do not know the username, then they can still configure utilities to run dictionary based or other variants to run on ESM for longer durations.

Impact

It is possible for an attacker to gain access to the application by brute-forcing the password. Since there are no restrictions on the number of logins attempts a malicious user can brute force the credentials of a user until the right credentials are guessed.

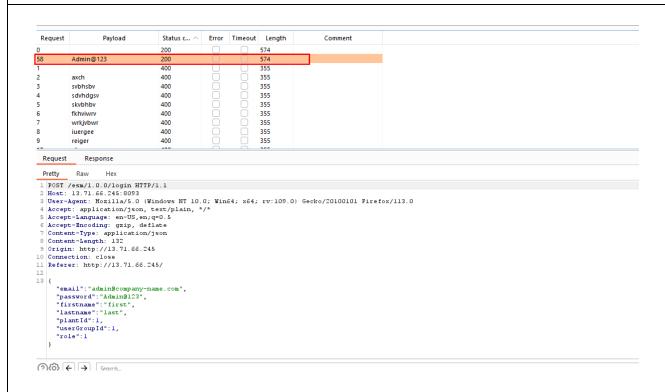
Recommendation

The most obvious way to block brute-force attacks is to simply lock out accounts after a defined number of incorrect password attempts. Account lockouts can last a specific duration, such as one hour, or the accounts could remain locked until manually unlocked by an administrator. A CAPTCHA may hinder brute force attacks, but CAPTCHA should be perceived as a rate limiting protection only which stops the attacker for a limited amount of time, also can use alternative verification channels like multi factor authentication.

How to recreate the Security defect

- Login into the ESM web application.
- Configure Burp or any other utility to continuously execute login payload with input coming from
- We observed that login into the account without any lockout.

Evidence



2.3 Cleartext Transmission of Sensitive Information					
Impact	Medium	Risk Rating	High		
Ease of Exploit	Easy				
Likelihood	High	Nating			
Category	CWE-319: Cleartext Transmission of Sensitive Informa	ation			
URL/Impacted http://12.71.66.245/#/login					
system	http://13.71.66.245/#/login				
Description					

Cleartext transmission, also known as plaintext transmission, refers to the process of transmitting data over a network or communication channel without encryption or other security measures that protect the data from interception or unauthorized access.

Impact

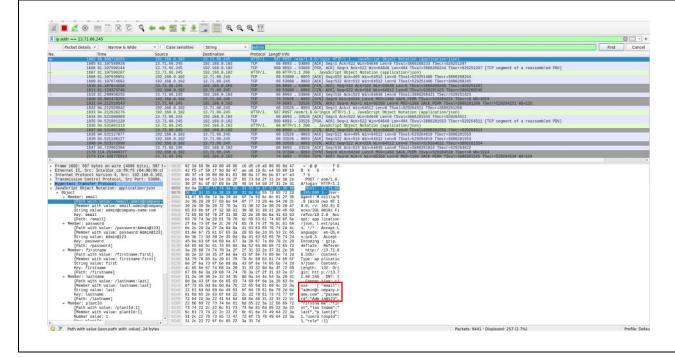
- The attacker can steal the user credentials and it can lead to identity theft.
- Information disclosure is possible.
- Data tampering is possible.

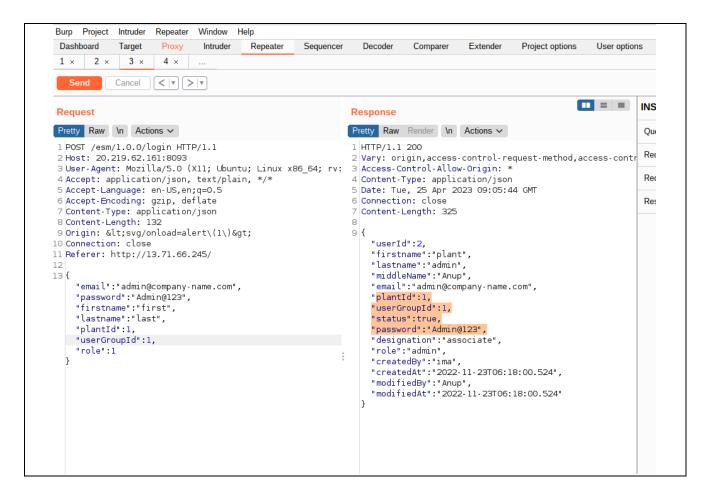
Recommendation

- Use encryption protocols such as SSL/TLS or HTTPS to ensure that data is encrypted in transit.
- Use secure communication channels such as SFTP, SSH, or VPNs to transmit sensitive data.
- Disable cleartext protocols such as HTTP or FTP and use only encrypted protocols such as HTTPS or SFTP to transmit sensitive data.

How to recreate the Security defect

- Open Wireshark
- Enter the IP address as ip.addr == 13.71.66.245 and select the internet connectivity interface.
- Open the packets and you can see sensitive information in clear text.





2.4 Blind Cross-site Scripting (XSS)					
Impact	Medium	Risk Rating	Medium		
Ease of Exploit	Easy				
Likelihood	Medium				
Category	CWE-79: Improper Neutralization of Input During Web Page Generation ('Crosssite Scripting')				
URL/Impacted system	http://13.71.66.245/#/login				
Description	-1				

Description

Blind XSS vulnerabilities are a variant of persistent XSS vulnerabilities. They occur when the attacker input is saved by the web server and executed as a malicious script in another part of the application or in another application. During penetration testing, we have generated a Blind XSS Alert. The JavaScript code that had been injected into the Alert name has been executed successfully. We can see the machines visiting on the alert page and clicking on the malicious alert name as shown in the evidence.

Impact

There are many different attacks that can be leveraged through the use of cross-site scripting, including:

- Attacking the user/machine which is clicking on the Alert name.
- Mounting phishing attacks

Recommendation

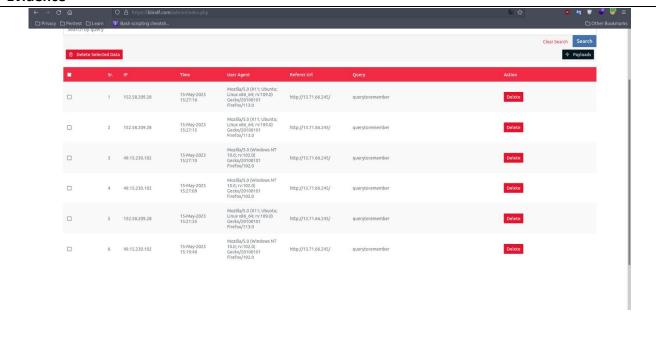


- In Alert manager page, put filters for saving the Alert name.
- Validate to catch potentially malicious user-provided input.
- Use Content Security Policy (CSP) to reduce the severity of any XSS vulnerabilities that still occur.

How to recreate the Security defect

- Browse to http://13.71.66.245/#/login
- Go to alert manager page and create new alert.
- In the alert name put a malicious XSS script and save it.
- Then you will get a clickable alert name.

Evidence



2.5 Clickjacking					
Impact	Medium	Dial.	Medium		
Ease of Exploit	Easy	Risk Rating			
Likelihood	Medium	Nating			
Category	A6: Security Misconfiguration				
URL/Impacted system	http://13.71.66.245/#/login				

Description

Clickjacking is a malicious technique that consists of deceiving a web user into interacting by clicking with something different to what the user believes they are interacting with. This type of attack, that can be used alone or in combination with other attacks, could potentially send unauthorized commands or reveal confidential information while the victim is interacting with seemingly harmless web pages.

Impact

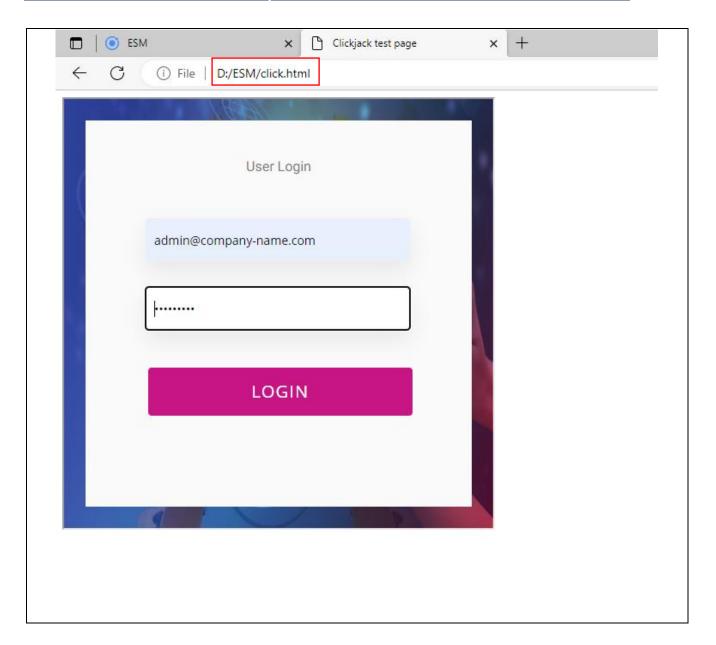
Attacker loads frame with high opacity onto the victim user's application page, something which is not the same what the user believed to be interacting with. Proof of clickjacking instance recorded is attached in the Evidence.

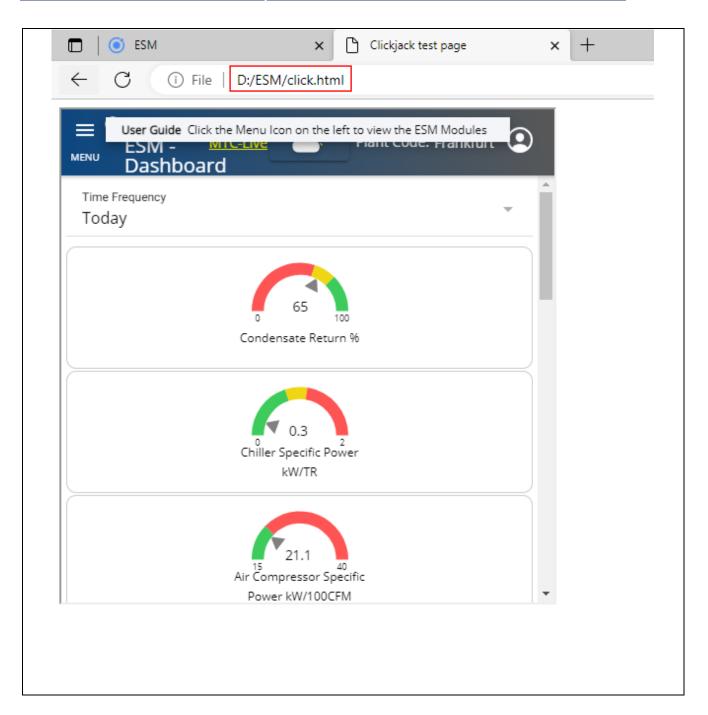
Recommendation

- The X-Frame-Options HTTP response header can be used to indicate whether a browser should be allowed to render a page in a <frame>, <iframe> or <object>.
- Sites can use this to avoid clickjacking attacks, by ensuring that their content is not embedded into other sites.

How to recreate the Security defect

- Write the following code into a notepad and save it as clickjacking.html.
- Open that in the browser.





2.6 HTML Injection					
Impact	Medium	Risk Rating	Medium		
Ease of Exploit	Moderate				
Likelihood	Medium	Natilig			
Category	CWE-80: Improper Neutralization of script-Related HTML Tags in a Web Page				
URL/Impacted system	pacted http://13.71.66.245/#/login				
Description					

HTML injection is a type of injection vulnerability that occurs when a user is able to control an input point and is able to inject arbitrary HTML code into a vulnerable web page. Here, in alert manager tab, we got that entry point on the alert name option.

Impact

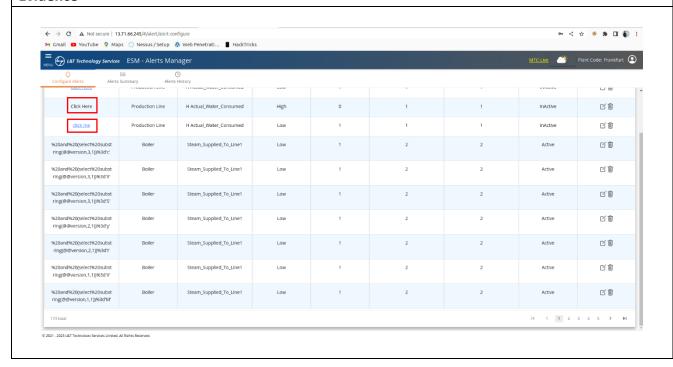
- It can allow an attacker to modify the page.
- To steal another person's identity.
- The attacker discovers injection vulnerability and decides to use an HTML injection attack.
- Attacker crafts malicious links, including his injected HTML content, and sends it to a user via email.
- The user visits the page due to the page being located within a trusted domain.
- The attacker's injected HTML is rendered and presented to the user asking for a username and password.
- The user enters a username and password, which are both sent to the attacker's server.

Recommendation

- In Alert manager page, put filters for saving the Alert name.
- Set up HTML script which filters the metacharacters from user inputs.
- Implement functions to validate the user inputs such that they do not contain any specific tag that can lead to virtual defacements.

How to recreate the Security defect

- Open alert manager page.
- Save new alert with one HTML script in the alert name box.
- After saving, click on the alert name.





2.7 Lack of rate limit leads to Brute-force Attack					
Impact	Medium	n: d.	Medium		
Ease of Exploit	Moderate	Risk Rating			
Likelihood	Medium	Natilig			
Category	A6: Security Misconfiguration				
URL/Impacted system	http://13.71.66.245/#/login				

Description

Rate limiting is a technique used in computer systems and network infrastructure to control and limit the number of requests or actions that can be performed within a certain time period. Here we are able to give more than six thousand requests for credentials and the application is not blocking that.

Impact

It sees a broad range of applications, from preventing DoS attacks at the proxy level to locking accounts to prevent Brute-force attacks. While it can be admittedly annoying at times, an application without any form of rate limiting is begging to be targeted as there is no limit set to control the requests that can be sent.

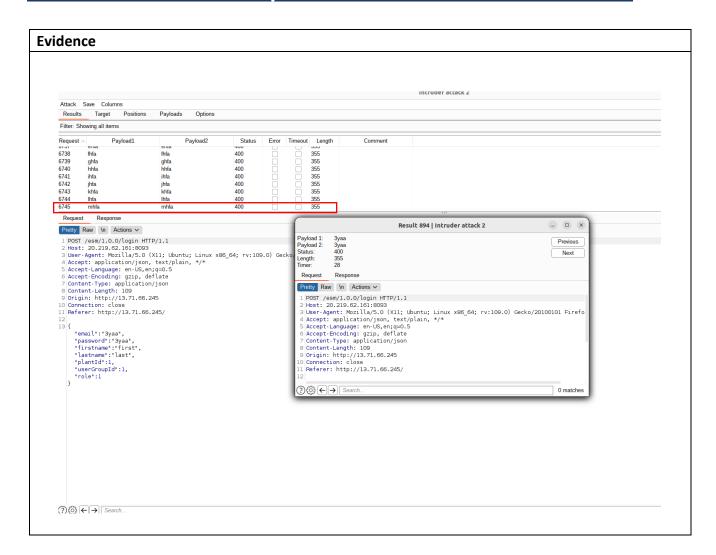
Recommendation

To mitigate this issue developers should implement a timeout after several requests in a period or implement a CAPTCHA mechanism on the form page.

How to recreate the Security defect

- Tried to login in as a user account.
- Capture the traffic into the burp suite and send it to the intruder tab.
- Set the payloads (dictionary files [containing username and passwords])
- Click on start attack.





2.8 No Content Security Policy			
Impact	Low	n' l	
Ease of Exploit	Difficult	Risk Rating	Low
Likelihood	Medium		
Category	CWE-1021: Improper Restriction of Rendered UI Layers or Frames		
URL/Impacted	http://13.71.66.245/#/login		
system	<u>Πτιμ.// 13.7 1.00.243/#/ ΙυχΙΠ</u>		
Page 2 de la constante de la c			

Description

During the HTTP traffic analysis of the ESM Web interface, it was observed that the server does not support Content Security Policy. Content Security Policy is a standard that helps protect against various content injection attacks like cross-site scripting. While the victim is interacting with seemingly harmless web pages.

Impact

Without a Content Security Policy, an attacker can perform content injection attacks if data from the service is displayed in a browser.

Recommendation

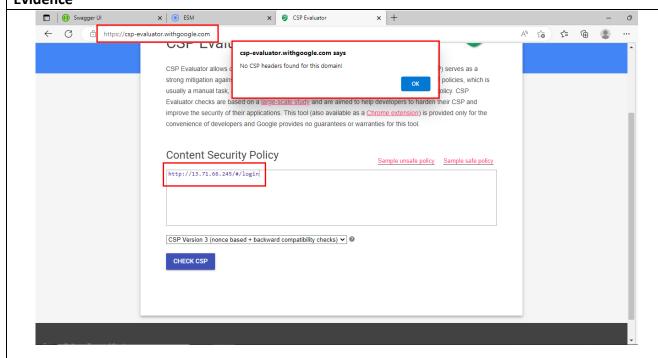
Enabling the Content Security Policy response header to all HTTP server responses helps in

preventing content injection attacks. While adding Content Security Policy it must be set correctly specifying the locations from which content can be loaded. Content-Security-Policy: <Policydirective.

How to recreate the Security defect

- Browse to https://csp-evaluator.withgoogle.com/
- Enter the URL http://13.71.66.245/#/login
- Click on check CSP.

Evidence



2.9 Application Allows Concurrent Sessions			
Impact	Low		
Ease of Exploit	Difficult	Risk Rating	Low
Likelihood	Low		
Category	CWE-1018: Manage User Sessions		
URL/Impacted	http://13.71.66.245/#/login		
system	<u>πιτμ.// 15.7 1.00.243/#/10gIII</u>		
Description			

Description

The application allows concurrent sessions, multiple users can login to the application simultaneously with the same user credentials.

Impact

Attacker can make victim's account active with the same username and password.

Recommendation

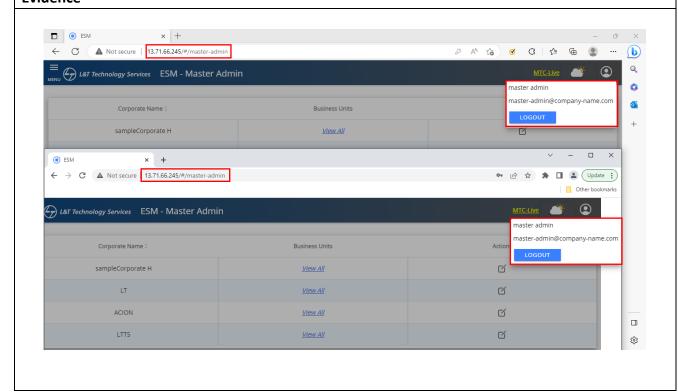
The application should only allow a user to establish a single session with a particular set of credentials at a time. Once that session has been established, subsequent attempts to login using

those credentials should either be denied or existing sessions should be terminated, depending on business needs.

If concurrent sessions are required for business purposes, additional session management features must be provided to ensure that all end users are made aware of multiple sessions. Such features include allowing end users to view all current sessions, prompting users when a new session is created, and providing users the ability to terminate unwanted sessions. Additionally, when allowing concurrent sessions, it is recommended that users are notified that their credentials were used to establish a new session, including the time and IP from which the session was established

How to recreate the Security defect

- Login into the application.
- Capture traffic observe response.
- Again, Login in the new browser with same credential as before.
- Notice that we multiple users can login to the application simultaneously with the same user credentials.



2.10 No Multifactor Authentication (MFA)			
Impact	Low	D:-1	
Ease of Exploit	Easy	Risk Rating	Info
Likelihood	Low	Nating	
Category	CWE-308: Use of Single-factor Authentication		
URL/Impacted system	http://13.71.66.245/#/login		

Description

The application uses single-factor authentication to authenticate privileged users to the system. Single-factor authentication refers to the use of a single component to identify an end user of an application or system. The factor provided may be something the user knows, something the user is, or something the user has. Each of these options provides its own set of advantages and risks when used for authentication:

- "Something you know", such as a user-defined password, may be easily created and changed when necessary. Authentication factors derived from the end user must have some degree to be managed by the user themselves, leaving the known secret's security up to them. This can result in the secret being forgotten or exposed through a breach of a separate system that holds or uses the same known secret.
- "Something you are", such as a fingerprint, provides an end user with a constant factor that cannot be easily acquired or mimicked by an attacker. While this initially provides a strong barrier to entry and will always be with the end user, a single breach could leave the attribute used for authentication useless as it cannot be updated.
- "Something you have", such as a hardware token, can be managed from a central source and is configured to constantly update, removing responsibility for the known secret from the user. However, this transition of the knowledge base may hinder the application's accessibility if the device is not always at hand.

Impact

If an attacker compromises the authentication mechanism (e.g., a victim's account password), they will have full access to functionality and data normally only available to the victim.

Recommendation

Multi-factor authentication should be implemented and enforced for externally accessible applications containing sensitive data or functionality. Multi-factor authentication is built upon the combination of two or more components that can prove a user's identity to the application. This provides an additional layer of security as it is assumed that an unauthorized attacker will not be able to supply both factors required for authentication. The factors required by the application should be a combination of at least two distinct factors from the following:

- Something the user knows
- Something the user is
- Something the user has

For example, a common multi-factor authentication mechanism requires a user to provide a password they have created (something they know), as well as a value from a hardware token (something they have). If an attacker can compromise a user's password, they will still not have access to the hardware token and will not be able to gain access to the system.

Note: Requiring two or more pieces of information for authentication that fall under the same factor category does not provide true multi-factor authentication. For example, a user's password and the answer to their security question are both something the user knows. Requiring both during authentication does not represent true multi-factor authentication.

How to recreate the Security defect

- Browse application.
- Perform any critical operation.
- Observe there is no additional authentication step for any critical operations.



2.11 Long Session Timeout			
Impact	Low	Dial.	
Ease of Exploit	Easy	Risk Rating	Info
Likelihood	Low	Nating	
Category	CWE-1018: Session Management		
URL/Impacted system	http://13.71.66.245/#/login		

Description

During the assessment, we observed an attacker's ability to hijack a victim's session increases proportionally with the amount of time an idle user's session remains valid. Once a valid session identifier is obtained, the attacker can impersonate the victim in the application, performing any functionality and accessing any data made available to the victim.

Impact

- Insufficient Session timeout increases a web site exposure to attacks that steal or reuse user's session identifiers.
- Cookie Hijacking is possible, application integrity can be compromised.
- Once a valid session identifier is obtained, the attacker can impersonate the victim in the application.

Recommendation

Terminate the user's session server-side after a sufficiently short idle period. When the user makes further requests using the expired session, they should be redirected to a splash page or the login pages. In addition, the client-side code should track session idle time and automatically redirect the user to a splash page or the login page after a certain period of client-side inactivity has passed. No prior authenticated user data or functionality should continue to be displayed after the timeout occurs.

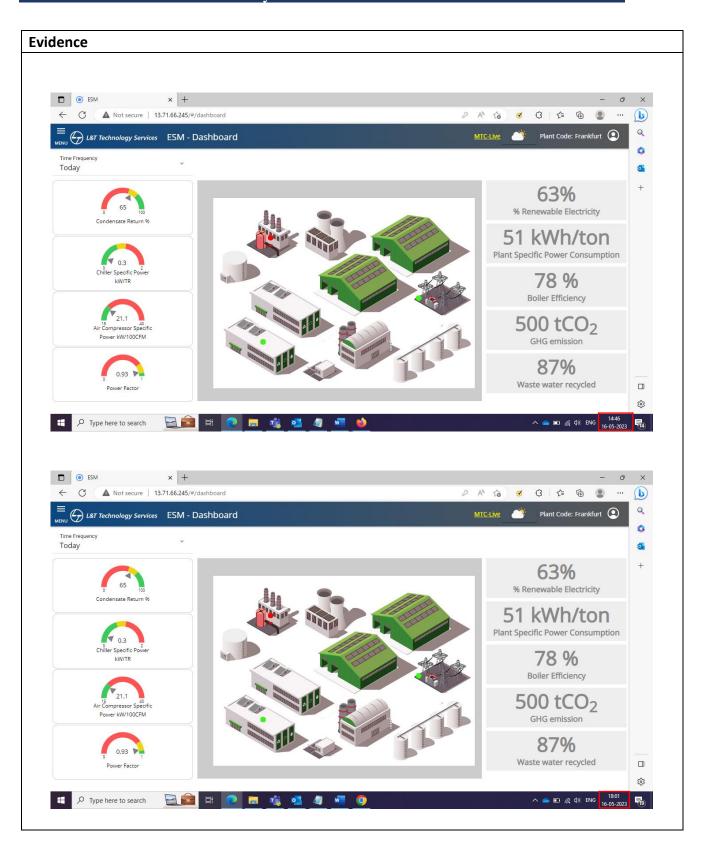
Determine a session timeout duration that sufficiently protects end users and the application while maintaining system usability. Session timeouts of 30-120 minutes are common for most web applications and vary depending on the sensitivity of the information available during each session. Various standards organizations and government entities also typically recommend organization-defined timeouts or call for an idle timeout of 30-120 minutes:

- PCI DSS v3.2 section 8.1.8 states, "If a session has been idle for more than 15 minutes, require the user to re-authenticate to re-activate the terminal or session."
- U.S. CNSS CNSSI No. 1253 section AC-11 states, "Session Lock ... not to exceed 30 minutes"
- NIST SP800-53 section AC-11 states, "...Prevents further access to the system by initiating a session lock after [Assignment: the organization-defined period of inactivity or upon receiving a request from a user".

How to recreate the Security defect

- Login to the application.
- Idle the application for up to 30-60 minutes.
- Can access the application even after 30-60 minutes.





3. Abbreviation

APP	Application
HTML	Hyper Text Mark-up Language
HTTP(S)	Hypertext transfer protocol (Secured)
Pg.	Page
TLS	Transport Layer Security
SSL	Secure Sockets Layer
IP	Internet Protocol
LTTS	Larsen & Toubro Technology Services
OWASP	Open Web Application Security Project
VAPT	Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration testing
CSP	Content Security Policy
IDOR	Insecure direct object references
MFA	No Multifactor Authentication
URL	Uniform Resource locator
XSS	Cross-Site Scripting
XXE	XML External Entities
SQL	Structured Query Language